Volume 28, Edition 10 October 2024

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

From Over the Hill

—By Ed W1EJ

Last month I talked about the fun we had building tape measure antennas at our August meeting, it was even more enjoyable using those antennas at the club picnic. Several members used theirs to find the fox I had hidden, and I had to use mine at the end of the day to find it because all those little bushes looked alike. Stan enhanced his setup with his 3D printing skills to make a pistol grip, a holder for his radio, and a holder for an offset attenuator he built. The "attenuator" really worked well. We also arranged for other hams to hunt us, as POTA activators. Robert set up for FT8 and made a bunch of contacts, I had the KX2 for working CW but only had six chases; I was too busy fox hunting and eating. Especially the eating, so much tasty food and Darrel's grilling skills, yum. We had a good turnout, and I hope everyone had as great a time as I did.

With the interest in fox hunting I wanted to plan another hunt soon. I thought it would work to have one before the first Saturday breakfast November 2nd but sunrise then is at 7:38 AM, so we would have to start in the dark. Any ideas for another hunt? Let me know.

There is another important annual event coming up, elections! Besides the one on November 5th, be sure to vote in that one; we will have elections for club officers. It would be great to have at least one new face, and new ideas, in our officers' ranks. We will be accepting nominations through the November meeting and voting in December using the Ham Club Online system again. Additional election information will be provided soon.

Our upcoming meeting, Wednesday October 16th, will be at the Sonoma Police Dept EOC with a ZOOM option. The planned Nano Vna tutorial will not happen, an alternate will be announced.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, **October 16, 2024** at 7:30 PM
City of Sonoma Police Department Meeting Room. 7:30 pm. and on zoom.
Topic: **TBA**
Presenter: **TBA**

Minutes of the September 18, 2024 Meeting

ONLINE MEETING ATTENDANCE: W1EJ (Ed), KE6HID (Andrew), KA5WSS (Robert), W6MOM

(Carla), K6YD (Kevin), N6LY (Liz), KO6DXF (Don), WB6TMH (Mike), W8EWL (John), NS6B (Robert), N7PIB (Sanford), NJ6E (Stan), KD6FIL (Dave), WD6BOR (Darrel)

ADOPT MEETING MINUTES as published in newsletter? Motion Made and Seconded- Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER, Eileen, KG6QNT - Absent

ACS, Moe, KI6JNU- KD6FIL Reporting- Quarterly radio test on Monday, October 14. Quarterly Leadership Meeting on October 28. County net meets Monday at 7:30 PM on the 146.730 repeater

VE LIASON, Elizabeth, N6LY- Test session scheduled for October 26. One person is already signed up.

RADIO OFFICER, Mike, WB6TMH- No updates

TRUSTEE, Darrel, WD6BOR - DMR repeater is up and running

SECRETARY/TREASURER, Dave, KD6FIL - $3,791.62 in the bank.

VICE PRESIDENT, Darrel, WD6BOR No updates

PRESIDENT, Ed, W1EJ

OLD BUSINESS

Club Picnic- September 22nd Sugarloaf Park Starts at 2 PM

QSL Cards Need a photo for the card

DMR Repeater- Up and running

NEW BUSINESS

Point Reyes Lighthouse – Got the application and will start the process to submit.

MEETING TOPIC- Meshtastic Short VIdeo

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Looking to upgrade or join the Ham Radio Hobby?

Come test with us.

Our next testing session will be on Saturday, October 26, 2024.

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

When: Saturday, October 26

Time: 10:00 AM

Reservations required.

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

Email: n6ly.emm@gmail.com

Location: Sonoma Police Staton EOC

Sonoma CA 95476

This is a testing session only, we don't offer classes or cram sessions.

If you are testing for a new license, you will be required to pay a $35 fee to the FCC, in addition to the fee below.

Once you pass the test, the FCC will send you an email with a link to pay the fee.

You will need to send in payment in order to receive your license and call sign.

This does not apply to upgrades.

Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- FCC Registration Number
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCEs and a photocopy of each
- Exam fee is $15.00, Under 18 is $5.00

Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free

year of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure

VOMARC Picnic

—By Robert KA5WSS

The club held its annual picnic in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park for the second time on September 22, 2024.

Darrel at the grill

Darrel (WD6BOR) expertly manned the grill and produced a non-stop output of hamburgers and hotdogs for all interested.

The main food table

As if that wasn't enough, the food table contained a wide variety of main courses and sides to satisfy almost any interest. Various desserts and beverages rounded out the cornucopia.

Dinner time!

Compared to last year, there were far fewer yellowjackets. This was a definite plus!

More food and conversation

We combined conversation and a filling meal with a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation. Using both CW and FT8, we made 49 contacts. This included stations in six different countries which included the United States, Mexico, Canada, Japan, Fiji and Madeira. Both stations used 25 watts or less of power.

Ed at his compact CW station

We used battery power for both transmitters and simple wire antennas. Ed (W1EJ) used a vertical on CW. I used an end fed long wire antenna hanging on low tree branches. All in all, it was a very simple installation with quick set up and tear down times.

Our FT8 station

We have uploaded all log information to both Logbook of the World (LoTW) and Parks on the Air (POTA). With this new log, the club now has two activations and 109 QSOs recorded on the POTA site. Technically, we have three activations since our efforts crossed over 0000 UTC into the 23rd.

Stan shows off his 2M tape measure yagi

Ed hid a transmitter nearby in the brush and a few members used their recently constructed 2M tape measure Yagi's to track it down. Stan (NJ6E) even had his antenna with modifications that included 3D printed parts.

After about three and a half hours everyone was full and we had exceeded the required number of QSOs for an official park activation.

Parks on the Air Fun

Over the last couple of months, we have picked up a few new parks, most of them up in Mendocino County. It has been fun exploring some new areas along the coast and in the Mendocino Forest, as well as one Vehicle Recreation (read dirt bikes and ATVs) Park on Cow Mountain.

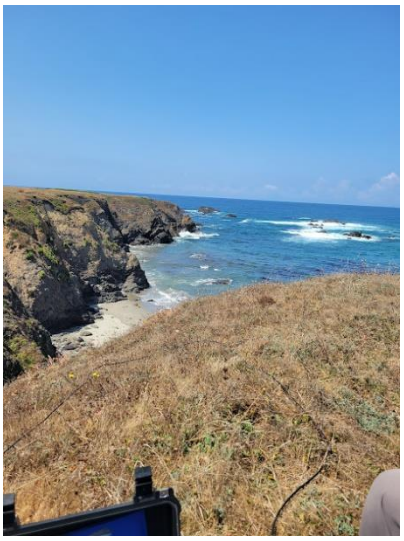
Besides the two listed below, we also activated Admiral William Standley State Recreation Area (US-3393), Cow Mountain BLM Special Recreation Area (US-10402), Grizzly Island (US-104165) and Yolo Bypass (US-11581) out in the Fairfield/Davis area.

We have also been spending a lot of time at Jack London State Park, since it is right up the street from us. Working on my Kilo there.

Last week, we headed out to Point Reyes, during the CA QSO Party, so I decided to participate in CA QSO also, getting 57 contacts.

Westport Union Landing State Beach (US-3591)

Jug Handle State Natural Reserve (US-10719)



Thank you.

Liz

N6LY

https://greatcyclechallenge.com/Riders/ElizabethMorris

For Sale

Spiderbeam 10m mini mast brand new in the box with receipt $108.00 firm.

1 1/2 year old atas-120a screwdriver Antenna, only used maybe 20 times. Never left on auto while driving. Always kept in house when not in use. $275.00.

Mmfj-1979 whip antenna in great condition for $50.00.

Contact: Kevin k6yd

No Snow, Just Bears, SOTA in the Sierras

—By Dave KD6FIL

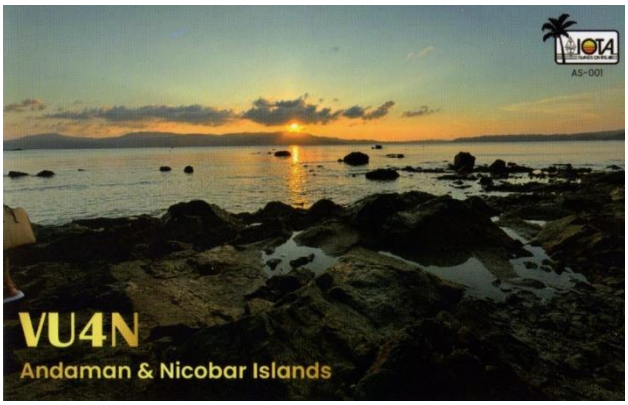
W1EJ and I ventured out on another summit activation. This time we headed up to the Sierras, off Highway 50 and activated Robbs Peak and Big Hill. The mountains are worth 6 points for SOTA activators. Ed likes those 6 pointers! The peaks are located in the Eldorado National Forest (Parks on the Air US-4455). The adventure started at the civilized hour of **6 AM** at Ed's house in Petaluma. The traffic was not bad going east, so it was a quick trip through Sacramento. After a gas stop at Fresh Pond to fill

up and use the facilities, we turned north off Highway 50 and headed up the Union Valley Reservoir Road. The roads were great and paved until the last 2.5 miles up to Robbs Peak. Just before we got to the gate where we parked and started hiking, we passed 2 bear cubs, about 10 feet from the car. Ed and I were very busy looking for their mom, but we did not see her. When we parked to start our hike about another mile up the road, I was not in a big hurry to get out of the car. It was a nice ¾ mile hike up to Robbs Peak. At the peak there is an old fire lookout that is no longer in use and a hut that can be rented through the Forest Service. It had a great view. We operated for about 1.5 hours. I made 6 contacts and Ed got about 19 CW contacts. Heading back down the road we did not run into anymore bears. Big Hill is another

great view spot. There is an active fire lookout and it was manned by Mike, KA6DOA. Mike said he hadn't seen any bears recently since the mountain lions were prowling around and we should keep an eye out for the rattle snakes! No rattle snakes and 7 contacts later (Ed made about 20 and 1- 2 meter contact using the tape measure antenna with a ham in Benicia) we packed up and headed home. Before we left, Ed had a tape measure beam kit left from the last club meeting, and gave it to Mike to build and make some contacts from the lookout. Mike said he monitors the local repeater while he is in the tower. It was another great adventure. Great scenery, ham radio, interesting people to talk with, no snow and only bears while we were in the car with the windows up and the doors locked!

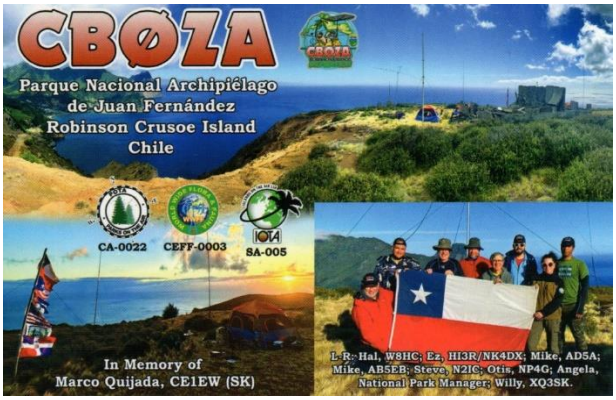
QSL Card Inbox

The TX5S DXpedition was a monumental affair. I was able to work them on all HF bands from 160M through 10M, with the exception of 40M. This included CW, FT8 and SSB contacts. A few of the contacts were also from my very modest home station.



My contact with VU4N in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean was an All Time New One (ATNO) for me. I worked them on 20M using FT8.

I



worked CB0ZA on Robinson Crusoe Island in the Pacific on 17M, 15M and 10M using both CW and SSB. Yet another ATNO one for me.

Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 28 EDITION 10

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – President

– Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS — Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC. "—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: **http://www.vomarc.org/**

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

–or–

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	ED	WIEJ
OCTOBER	JOHN	W8EWL
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2024

Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**